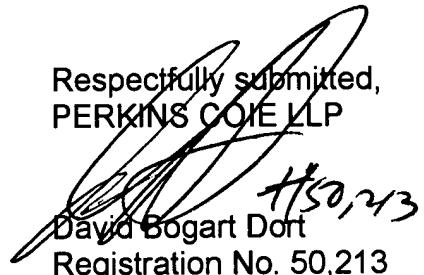


REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1; 3-7 and 30-35 are now in condition for allowance and are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone or in-person conference would expedite resolution of the patentability issues in this proceeding, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at the contacts listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 17, 2003
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